

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JULY 13, 2015

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2015–16 REGULAR SESSION

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 95

Introduced by Assembly Member Mathis
(Coauthors: Assembly Members Chávez and Wilk)

July 2, 2015

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 95—Relative to the American Flag.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

ACR 95, as amended, Mathis. American Flag.

This measure would declare that the American flag is an inseparable part of California’s rich history, tradition, and culture, that it represents the values of freedom and liberty, and would call upon the state and local governments to prohibit any government entity in the state from banning the American flag from public property.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, On June 14th, 1777, in the midst of the American
2 Revolutionary War, the Continental Congress adopted a resolution
3 stating that “the flag of the United States be thirteen alternate
4 stripes red and white” and that “the Union be thirteen stars, white
5 in a blue field, representing a new Constellation”; and
6 WHEREAS, On September 14th, 1814, American soldiers under
7 siege at Fort McHenry in Baltimore, Maryland raised a huge
8 American flag to celebrate a crucial victory over British forces
9 during the War of 1812, inspiring Francis Scott Key to write a
10 poem that eventually became the words of the United States
11 National Anthem; and

1 WHEREAS, On June 6th, 1944, more than 160,000 American
2 and Allied troops carrying the “Stars and Stripes” landed along a
3 50-mile stretch of heavily fortified French coastline in Normandy
4 to liberate Europe from the forces of Nazi Germany. More than
5 9,000 Allied soldiers were killed or wounded on D-Day to free
6 Europe from fascist occupation; and

7 WHEREAS, On February 23rd, 1945, five Marines and a Navy
8 Corpsman raised the American flag atop Mount Suribachi during
9 the Battle of Iwo Jima. It was a hard-fought victory over
10 imperialism at the cost of 5,900 United States service members
11 killed and 17,400 wounded against 23,000 Japanese army and
12 naval forces fighting from an entrenched network of caves, dugouts,
13 tunnels and underground installations; and

14 WHEREAS, On July 20, 1969, astronauts Neil Armstrong and
15 Buzz Aldrin became the first human beings to set foot on the surface
16 of the moon, where they placed the American flag. There, the flag
17 has stood a decades-long vigil upon the Sea of Tranquility as a
18 gesture of peace for all mankind; and

19 WHEREAS, On September 11th, 2001, in the aftermath of the
20 terrorist attack which destroyed the World Trade Center, three
21 New York City firefighters, George Johnson of Rockaway Beach,
22 Ladder 157, Dan McWilliams of Long Island, Ladder 157, and
23 Billy Eisengrein of Staten Island, Rescue 2, raised the American
24 flag over the smoldering ruins of Ground Zero where the Twin
25 Towers once stood. It was an act of defiance against those who
26 sought to break the unconquerable values of freedom and liberty
27 which the American flag represents; ~~now, therefore, be it and~~

28 WHEREAS, In 2015, the United States of America will provide
29 \$35.4 billion in foreign assistance programs to more than 100
30 countries around the world through the efforts of over 20 different
31 government agencies. These investments will further America’s
32 foreign policy interests on issues ranging from expanding free
33 markets, combating extremism, and ensuring stable democracies,
34 to addressing the root causes of poverty, while simultaneously
35 establishing the American flag as the undisputed image of global
36 good will; now, therefore, be it

37 Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate
38 thereof concurring, That the Legislature declares that the American
39 flag is an inseparable part of California’s rich history, tradition,
40 and culture; and be it further

1 *Resolved*, That the Legislature declares that the American flag
2 represents the values of freedom and liberty; and be it further

3 *Resolved*, That the Legislature calls upon the state and local
4 governments to prohibit any government entity in the state from
5 banning the American flag from public property, including, but
6 not limited to, public schools, public colleges, public universities,
7 state beaches, public parks, public monuments, museums, and
8 government offices; and be it further

9 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
10 of the resolution to the author for appropriate ~~distribution~~
11 *distribution*.